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Urban District of
PORTSLADE-BY-SEA



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1947

by

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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REPORT

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N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

N. E. CHADWICK, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., also M.O.H. of
Hove.

SURVEYOR—

W. E. RUDGLEY, M.Inst.M. & Cy.E., C.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

A. DONALD, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., C.R.S.I.

PHYSICIANS TO THE CHILD WELFARE CENTRES—

Miss V. E. CLAXTON, M.B., B.S., London.

Miss D. A. CAREW HUNT, M.D., London.

HEALTH VISITORS AND SCHOOL NURSES—

Miss ARMSTRONG, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate.

Miss RUSSELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V's Certificate.

Urban District of Portslade-by-Sea

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1947. The general health of the population both old and young remained at the level to which we are becoming accustomed—a minimum of serious disease but a multiplicity of minor ailments combined with a sense of frustration and weariness which has its effect upon life in general. After its absence in 1946, it was anticipated that Measles, which has a biannual periodicity, reappeared in 1947, but fortunately the type was mild—there was only 1 death—and the incidence fell mostly on the age group over 3. Scarlet Fever accounted for only 12 cases and there was only 1 of Diphtheria—an adult—for which last freedom the Immunisation campaigns of former years must be accounted mainly responsible. Nevertheless, there has been a falling off in the number of initial inoculations and it is hoped to improve the position when the new arrangements for both Immunisation and Vaccination under the National Health Act 1946 are brought into operation. Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) only attacked 1 individual and he made a good recovery.

The Birth Rate rose from 18.55 to 20.6 and the Infant Mortality Rate from 25.5 to 44.4, the latter very slightly above the national figure. There were no Maternal Deaths.

There was a very pronounced drop in the notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis from 15 to 5, partly accounted for by the reduction in the incidence among the Services.

By the end of the year some 69 new Council Houses had been erected and 91 families rehoused either in that way or by the conversion of requisitioned properties.

As the results of discussions with the County Council the scheme of delegation of powers to a joint Sub-Committee of Hove and Portslade under Part III of the National Health Act 1946 was agreed upon and under it the representatives will have almost total authority in the maintenance of these Health Services in the area.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

N. E. CHADWICK,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population : 13,050.

BIRTHS :		M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	..	128	128	256
Illegitimate	..	6	8	14

Birth Rate : 20.6.

STILL BIRTHS :

2. Rate per 1,000 births—7.4.

DEATHS :

Male .. 78
 Female .. 77 Total : 155.

Death Rate : 11.87.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Child-
 birth : Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age : 12.

Rate per 1,000 births : 44.4.

Deaths from :

Measles (all ages) ..	..	1
Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ..	..	1

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

DRAINAGE.

The whole of the public roads in the district are sewered by gravitation on the water carriage system.

All houses in the District are connected to the public sewers with the following exceptions :

There are 9 houses served by 5 cesspools, of these cesspools 2 have no sewerage facilities in the neighbourhood and 2 do not, as regards the statutory distance, come within the requirements of the Act. One house served by a cesspool was connected to the sewer and the cesspool filled in.

In addition there are 9 houses, situate in outlying parts of the District, provided with earth closets.

All sewerage is discharged into intercepting sewers which are under the control of the Portslade and Southwick Outfall Sewerage Board. Disposal is by means of Sea Outfall owned by the board.

SANITARY INSPECTOR. The Sanitary Inspector has prepared the following Annual Statement of his visits and notices :

Houses inspected for housing defects	..	210
Number of inspections made for the purpose		503
Houses inspected under Public Health Acts	..	188
Number of inspections made for that purpose		436
Number of complaints received	.. ..	335
Informal Notices served (P.H. & H. Act)	..	186
Statutory Notices served	.. ..	28
Houses found dirty or verminous	..	11
Houses with insufficient refuse bin	..	68
Defective Drains	.. ..	41
Defective Closets	.. ..	37
Defective Sinks	.. ..	9

Defective Roofs and Gutters	..	..	76
Defective Paving of Yards	..	..	5
Damp and Defective Walls and Ceilings	..	..	184
Defective Floors	..	..	45
Defects to Windows, Doors, Grates, etc.	..	..	136

RATS AND MICE (Destruction Act, 1919).

The eradication of rats and mice has again played an important part in the work of the department, and a considerable amount of time was spent on this work.

A part-time Rodent Operator engaged on this work dealt with 73 infestations and paid 292 visits to infested properties.

The modern method of prebaiting before poisoning has proved very successful, and the survey of properties adjoining infested properties has led to the discovery of many sources of infestation.

The practice of making a small charge to occupiers of private properties for treatment as recommended by the Ministry of Food does appear to discourage people in reporting infestation, and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide a free service in the coming year.

Eradication of bed bugs.

- (1) During the year 11 houses were found to be infested with vermin, and were disinfested as follows :
- (2) By removing and easing all woodwork, architraves, skirting-boards, etc., and spraying with insecticides, and in some cases by the use of gaseous fumigants.

This work has been carried out by the Council, and in the case of Non-Council Houses the cost of materials used has been charged to the Owner or Occupier.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	210
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	503
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	210

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :*

Number of defective dwelling - houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	123
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :*A. *Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	22
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :	
(a)	By Owners	4
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which informal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	94
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By Owners	8
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for habitation	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	0
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	0
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 19 (2) :	
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	0
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms the Closing Orders in respect of which were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers prosecuted
		Inspect'ns	Written Notices	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	16	3	<i>Nil</i>
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	24	8	<i>Nil</i>
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers Premises) .. .	2	—	—	—
TOTAL .. .	66	40	11	<i>Nil</i>

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H. M. Inspector	Referred By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	2	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	5	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	13	11	—	—	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. There is only 1 Farm in the district from which milk is supplied.

There are 3 Dairies in the district, 1 Cowkeeper, 20 shops where milk is sold in bottles only ; and 19 Retailers and Dairy-men who deliver milk in this district, of which 16 have premises in other districts.

ICE CREAM. There are 2 premises registered for manufacture of Ice Cream, both of which have been completely rebuilt and modernised during the year, and there are 12 premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found to be unfit for human consumption :

922lbs. of Beef, 53 stones of Fish, 47 tins of Corned Beef, 36lbs. of Sausages, 24 packages of Soup, 3 boxes of Fish Cakes, 5 packages of Chocolate, 1 Chicken, 698 cans of Food.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality, 1947.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	—	1	3	3	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFIED CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1947.

DISEASE.	Total	Under 1 yr.	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	R'moved Hospital	D'ths.
Scarlet Fever ..	12			1			6	5						2	
Erysipelas ..	3							1	1			1			
Pneumonia ..	8				1					1	2	3	1		8
Diphtheria ..	1									1					
Measles ..	162	5	17	17	17	32	67	5	2						1
Whooping Cough ..	16	3	3	2	2	4	1			1				1	
Polio-Myelitis ..	1								1						
	203	8	20	20	20	36	74	11	4	3	2	4	1	3	9

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to
31st December, 1947.

Age at 31-12-47, <i>i.e.</i> , Born in Year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-1942	10 to 14 1933-1937	Total under 15
Number								
Immunised	16	167	195	266	183	1774		2601
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1947		Children under 5. 1100				Children 5-14 1840		2940

